GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1390
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Sanitation Standard
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the standards of sanitation prescribed under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) in rural areas of the country;
(b) whether there has been considerable change in awareness level towards sanitation in rural areas of the country after the launch of SBM-G;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the challenges in implementation of SBM-G in rural areas of the country and the measures taken or being taken to address these challenges?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM-G) entails freedom from open defecation and management of solid and liquid waste. Open Defecation Free (ODF) has been defined as:
"ODF is the termination of faecal-oral transmission, defined by:

1) no visible faeces found in the environment/village; and
2) every household as well as public/community institutions using safe technology option for disposal of faeces
(Tip: Safe technology option means no contamination of surface soil, ground water or surface water; excreta inaccessible to flies and animals; and freedom from odour and unsightly condition)"

The SBM-G guidelines also provide setting up systems for scientific disposal of waste. Technological options for Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) have been provided to the States. The States may identify socially acceptable and environmentally safe technologies as suitable to them. An Index of Village Swachhta has also been developed. This includes factors like access to safe toilets and also whether there is visible cleanliness around households and public places. This is measured by determining the percentage of households having access to safe toilets, percentage of households having no litter around them, percentage of houses having no stagnant waste water around them and percentage of public places having no litter around them. The public places include schools, anganwadis, hospitals, etc. The Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of SBM (G) enables villages to determine their own Village Swachhta Index in a Gram Sabha and take steps to improve their cleanliness level.
(b) Yes, Sir.
(c) Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has taken the form of people's movement. The focus of the programme has been on behaviour change and community engagement. Because of this, women, children, youth, civil society organizations and all sections of the society are joining the sanitation movement and making their villages clean and free from open defecation. The progress in rural sanitation has seen a spurt since the launch of SBM(G). 101 Districts, 1,006 Blocks, 77,529 GPs and 1,68,471 Villages have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF) as on 03.03.2017. The sanitation coverage has increased from 42.01% in 2.10.2014 to 61.31% as on 03.03.2017.

(d) Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue. It involves change of mindset of people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. Since this requires engagement of community and skill in facilitation, the process takes some time. The challenges pertain to capacity building of the implementing machinery, continuing focus on community involvement and bring about collective (i.e. village as a whole) behaviour change, promoting technological innovations, streamlining financial and programme management and converging other development schemes with sanitation to promote sustainability. These are some of the challenges faced.

In order to address the above challenges, a number of measures have been taken/being taken. These include:

â€¢ Focus on behavior change: Community based collective behavior change has been mentioned as the preferred approach, although the States are free to choose the approach best suited to them. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages, rather than only on construction of individual toilets. This entails triggering the entire village into changing their behavior.
â€¢ The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.
â€¢ There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management. Lack of adequate capacities is a major challenge in scaling up the programme. Therefore, various initiatives are being taken to reach out to all the stakeholders. From the Government of India side, the States and select organizations (called Key Resource Centres) are being trained. These in turn are, carrying out trainings at the sub-State level. The key official at the district level-Collector-has been roped in the programme to provide leadership at the district level. They are being exposed to best practices, both through workshops and

exposure visits. More than 530 Collectors from across the country have been trained. In order to provide exposure to officers at their entry level itself, a training module has been developed for LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The IAS and other Group A probationers are being given training for better implementation of SBM(G), including 'triggering' behavior change in communities.
â€¢ The programme is being run as a janandolan with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.
â€¢ There is an emphasis on streamlining administrative and financial procedures, both to cut down on time, as well as to increase accountability.
â€¢ Innovations in technology is being promoted at the National and State levels. There is a National Committee under Prof. R.A.Mashelkar that examines all new technologies from the point of view of safety and feasibility.
â€¢ Sanitation is being prioritized amongst the overall development agenda. The Government has taken a decision to prioritise all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in ODF villages. Various other development schemes are being converged with the sanitation outcomes.
â€¢ Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened. The IMIS has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App has been developed that provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App.
â€¢ Zila Swachhata Preraks are being engaged for support of districts.
â€¢ Web portal of Swachh Sangrah has been developed for knowledge sharing.